

Applicant: Kaever et al.
Application No.: 10/576,973

In The Claims

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)
13. (Canceled)
14. (Canceled)
15. (Canceled)
16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring and identifying dairy animals, the method comprising the steps of:

recognizing with a sensor the presence of ~~[[a]]~~ dairy animals moving in a milking parlor

comprising a number of milking stalls;

assigning a number to the each dairy animal, whereby the number corresponds to a

stall in which the dairy animal will be milked;

storing the number for each dairy animal in a process controller;

~~attempting to read identification data~~ conducting an identification step for the each dairy

animal with a sensor that interacts with an information storage device carried by

the dairy animal to obtain identification data for that dairy animal; and

assigning the number and the identification data for each dairy animal to an

information unit;

making each information unit available at the stall in which the animal belonging to the

information units is located;

indicating stalls at which the information unit does not contain identification data;

conducting a second identification step at the indicated stalls; and

controlling a dairy operation in each stall corresponding to the identification data for the

dairy animal in the stall ~~when the step of attempting to read identification data for~~

~~a dairy animal was successful.~~

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, and further comprising the step of:

generating a signal when the step of ~~attempting to read~~ conducting an identification step

to obtain identification data for a dairy animal was not successful.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, ~~and further comprising wherein the~~
~~second identification step of: results from a signal being given to signaling~~ a dairy operator to
visually identify the dairy animal when the step of ~~attempting to read identification data~~
~~conducting an identification step~~ was not successful.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, and further comprising the step of:
determining the speed of the dairy animal moving in the milking parlor with a
plurality of sensors.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, and further comprising the step of:
determining the direction the dairy animal is moving in the dairy parlor with a plurality of
sensors.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, and further comprising the step of:
diverting milk from a dairy animal being milked when the step of ~~attempting to read~~
~~identification data~~ conducting an identification step for that dairy animal was not
successful.